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A Congress Checkrein on CIA Is Urged

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New moves to increase Congressional control over the CIA are likely in the new Congress.

Sentiment among Senators for such action -- defeated several times in recent years -- has not lessened and may in fact be growing.

Sen. Eugene McCarthy (D-Minn.) told The New York Standard Monday that he was planning to reintroduce a bid to set up a joint Congressional committee on the Central Intelligence Agency.

The plan, which McCarthy introduced in the House twice without success and again in the Senate the last Congress, would give the watchdog committee power to review major policy decisions of the

Indirect Checkrein

"It would not be a day-to-day check," McCarthy said, "but a sort of indirect general control over major operations like the U-2 operation over Russia or like Cuba."

If the committee opposed a CIA plan, McCarthy said, "it would have to make some kind of fight for it either in the joint committee or in speeches, or go to the President or to the foreign affairs or appropriations committees."

Sen. Henry Jackson (D-Wash.) told The Standard he favored a watchdog committee if its members were "properly selected -- if they had the necessary background and would not be talking all the time."

The necessity for secrecy has kept the CIA's spending carefully concealed in public budget figures. Some critics argue that Congress should keep a tighter hand on expenditures.

Allen Dulles, former CIA director, disagrees strongly with those who want more control. In an article to be published in full in the Encyclopaedia Britannica's "Book of the Year" and in part in the April Harper's, Dulles said recent procedures "have been functioning very well for a decade."

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